



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Serviam Gardens ♦ 321 East 198th Street ♦ Bronx, N.Y. 10467

- I) Public Session started at 6:35pm with the following speakers:
- A) Deputy Inspector Hofmann, 52nd Precinct:
- 1) The Inspector was happy to report that the general crime rate in the 52nd Precinct had gone down a little
 - 2) The Precinct had its first murder of the year. The victim knew her assailant
 - 3) There has been an increase in burglaries. The point of entrance has been fire escape windows. The Precinct has a Crime Prevention Officer, who will do surveys of residences and business to prevent crimes
 - 4) 900 flyers reminding individuals to pick up after your dog have been handed out. 8 tickets have been issued for failure to pick-up after your dog
 - 5) Applications for the 2014 Youth Police Academy are available. The free program runs from July 7th to August 15th, 2014 for NYC youth between the ages of 10 to 16 years of age
 - 6) The Precinct is working on graffiti issues. Individuals should contact the Precinct with location of problem areas
 - 7) The 52nd Precinct leads the Bronx in the number of speeding summons issued
 - 8) P.O. Cortez of the Community Affairs Unit was also present
- B) David Cruz, Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News:
- 1) The Norwood News has 200 distribution locations. Office number is 718-324-4998 and cell number is 914-698-6216
- C) Emmanuel Galarza, Resident Skateboarder:
- 1) Spoke on the need of a skateboard park at the Williamsbridge Oval. Barbara Stronczer, Temporary Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, said there was a motion to support a skateboard area in the Williamsbridge Oval Park on the agenda tonight
- D) Lowell Green, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee:
- 1) Invited people to the DOT Vision Zero–Pedestrian Safety Workshop at Lehman College on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 6:30-8:30pm
- E) Dilletta Pina, CB7 member & Vice-President of The Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval:
- 1) Invited people to Party for the Norwood Slow Zone on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 11:00 am. Tunnel Entrance to the Oval (Bainbridge Avenue and Reservoir Oval)
 - 2) Health Day at Williamsbridge Oval will be on May 31, 2014 from 10:00am-2:00pm
 - 3) Teddy Bear Hospital Day will be on May 17, 2014 at the Wakefield / Montefiore North Hospital. This program lets young people up to age 12 bring their stuffed animal to the hospital for medical care. This free program is to reduce children's fear of seeing a doctor



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- F) Eva Mercado, Resident:
- 1) Asked when the Bryan Park located at Fordham Road and Kingsbridge Road will reopen. Barbara Stronczer, Temporary Chair of Parks and Recreation Committee, said that the Parks Department plans on start working on the park soon and hopes to be finished by the Fall
- G) Dr. Reva Gershen Lowy, Ed. D:
- 1) Spoke about the Cardinal McCloskey Community Service Organization. This organization has services for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age as well as services for foster children and developmental disabled adults. Informational material was available
- H) Carmen Quarles, NYC Parks Department:
- 1) Spoke about how successful the Williamsbridge Oval's Spring Egg Hunt was. She invited all to the May 31, 2014 Health Day. She asked for more police presence in the Oval
- I) Siddig Mohammed, Resident skateboarder:
- 1) Spoke on the need for a Skateboard Park in the Williamsbridge Oval Park
- J) Dough Condit, Friends of the Williamsbridge Oval:
- 1) Talked about supporting the creation of a Skateboard Park in the Oval
- K) Felicita Chevalier, Resident of Serviam Gardens:
- 1) Spoke on the need of a traffic light at 198th Street and Bainbridge Avenue as well as the need to make East 198th Street from the Grand Concourse to Webster Avenue into a one-way street; she had a petition. Lowell Green, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, requested that she make a copy of the petition before giving it to her. Ms. Green will follow-up on the request.
- L) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, CB7 member & Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) member:
- 1) Invited people to a free workshop on the availability of resources to help non-profit organizations on April 30, 2014 at the Bronx Museum
- M) Samelys Lopez, CB7member:
- 1) Talked about how "Active Design" can create a more livable city. A workshop is planned for June
- N) Jake Sporn, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz' Office:
- 1) Said hello to the body
- O) Katrina Asante, Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office:
- 1) Announced a Job Fair scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the Police Athletic League, located at 2255 Webster Ave, Bronx, NY 10457 and a Senior Health Fair on May 16, 2014
- P) Elvin Garcia, Mayor's Office:
- 1) Listened as community residents raised concerns about graffiti and the filtration plant. He can be reached at egarcia@cityhall.nyc.gov
- Q) Greg Faulkner, Chief of Staff, Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office:
- 1) Reported that their office has hired a team to work with individuals who work on Davidson Avenue as prostitutes



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- 2) The councilman is working on a bill to make the Department of Education to do regular reporting and faster notification to parents and staff of environmental test results in schools
 - R) Lilyanna Pekic, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office:
 - 1) Spoke about the successful Bronx's Day in Albany. 600 people attended.
 - S) Councilman Andrew Cohen:
 - 1) He is working on getting free lunch for all New York City public school students
 - T) Edurado Resendiz, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo's Office:
 - 1) Spoke about the Job Fair for May 8, 2014
 - 2) The Assemblyman's office could help in signing up children for Universal Pre-K programs
 - U) Tom Lucania, Borough President's Office:
 - 1) Grand Concourse will become an Arterial Slow Zone
 - 2) Bronx Week 2014 will be on Thursday, May 8 thru Sunday, May 18, 2014
- II) Public Session closed at 8:00pm.
- III) Award Ceremony:
- A) The following groups were honored and presented with awards by Community Board 7:
 - 1) Elizabeth Quaranta, Friends of Mosholu Parkland:
 - a) Friends of Mosholu Parkland consists of a group of volunteers who advocate for the conservation of the parkland surrounding Mosholu Parkway
 - 2) Jenn Beaugrand, founder of "The Bronx is Blooming":
 - b) Engages Bronx communities and youth to be leaders in the beautification of local parks
 - 3) Liz Von Uhl, The Friends of Williamsbridge Oval:
 - c) Has a group of residents who are committed to improving conditions at the Williamsbridge Oval Park
 - B) The following individuals were honored by Community Board 7 for helping our animal and human community with extraordinary acts of kindness and selflessness. Some individuals are involved in trapping and neutering strays, others keep colonies of cats fed and healthy, individuals rescue abandoned animals and help to find homes for them. One person helps with transportation needs, such as vet visits. All advocate for animals whenever they can, all would like to see an animal shelter in the Bronx. These individuals were present:
 - 1) Sheila Sanchez
 - 2) Vicki Puluso
 - 3) Jeffrey Ecker
 - C) The following individuals were honored but did not attend:
 - 1) Iris Lugo
 - 2) Renee Manzione
 - 3) Mildred Smulowitz
 - 4) Rita Newton
 - 5) Rose D'Alfonso
 - 6) Helena Terranova



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IV) Attendance taken (sheet in file), quorum present:

- A) Present members include: Mohammed S. Ali, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Nelson Cruz, Edward DeJesus, Dustin Engelken, Sandra Erickson, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Khadijaha Saeed, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Dilletta Pina, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago.
- B) Absent (not excused) members were as follows: Walter Bell, Paul Foster
- C) Excused members are as follows: Nora Feury, Charlesetta Rhett
- D) Members in "Leave of Absence" include: Lisa Sills-Short
- E) Interim District Manager Tom Lucania was present

V) **MOTIONS:**

- A) Budget/Personnel & Ethics Committee by Andrew Laiosa:
 - 1) An Attendance Letter has been created and will be sent to members who have missed meetings. There are no motions at this time
- B) Traffic and Transportation Committee by Lowell Green:
 - 1) CB7 passed the motion to support the Kingsbridge Unity Festival to be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014
 - 2) CB7 passed the motion to support the naming of a Green Street triangle located in front of Tracey Towers located at 40 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx NY 10468 in honor of Margaret J Mack.
- C) Parks and Recreation Committee by Barbara Stronczer:
 - 1) CB7 passed the motion to recommend the construction of a skateboard area in the Williamsbridge Oval Park.
 - a) Dilletta Pina abstained
- D) Housing / Land Use & Zoning Committee by Jean Hill:
 - 1) CB7 approved sending a letter of support for the Crunch Gym located at 3170 Webster Ave Bronx, NY 10467.
 - b) Dilletta Pina, William Francis and Dustin Engelken all abstained
- E) Education / Libraries / Cultural Affairs & Youth Services Committee by Bruce Kaufman:
 - 1) Approved sending a letter of support for a Charter School operated by the Rosalyn Yalow Academy Charter School in District 10
 - c) Andrew Laiosa voted "NO"

VI) Executive Session:

- A) The Community Board went into Executive Session to discuss the selection and hiring of a new District Manager. The public left the room. The Community Board came out of the Executive Session and the public came back into the room
 - 1) Dustin Engelken was announced as the candidate for the District Manager Position for Community Board 7
 - 2) A roll called vote was called for:
 - a) Mohammed S. Ali, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Nelson Cruz, Edward DeJesus, Sandra Erickson, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Lowell Green Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean



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Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Khadijaha Saeed, Cynthia O'Neal Riley, Dilletta Pina, John Sinder, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago

i) All These Board members voted yes.

b) Absent (Unexcused): Walter Bell and Paul Foster

c) Excused: Nora Feury and Charlesetta Rhett

d) Leave of Absence: Lisa Sills-Short

e) Recluse: Dustin Engelken

3) 21 "Yes" Votes for Dustin Engelken as District Manager. The vote was unanimously approved. The newly selected DM will start on May 12, 2014

VII) Meeting adjourned by voice vote 9:07pm